

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

UNCLAS STATE 298953

E.O. 11652:

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: REUTER'S STORY ON ANGOLA/MOBUTU

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF REUTER'S STORY DATELINED
WASHINGTON DECEMBER 6: "IN ADDITION TO PROVIDING FUNDS
FOR COVERT OPERATIONS IN ANGOLA, THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
AGENCY HAS BEEN SECRETLY FUNNELLING MONEY AND OTHER
SUPPORT TO ZAIRE'S PRESIDENT MOBUTU SESE SEKO SINCE
THE EARLY 1960S, ACCORDING TO INTELLIGENCE SOURCES.

DURING A 15-YEAR PERIOD, THE CIA HAS PROVIDED PRESIDENT
MOBUTU WITH LARGE QUANTITIES OF ARMS, MERCENARIES AND, AT
ONE TIME, EVEN GAVE HIM BOMBERS FLOWN BY CUBAN VETERANS
OF THE ILL-FATED BAY OF PIGS INVASION, THE SOURCES SAID.

THEY ADDED THAT THE CIA OFFICIAL WHO WAS CLOSEST TO
PRESIDENT MOBUTU WAS LAWRENCE DEVLIN, THE AGENCY'S
STATION CHIEF IN ZAIRE IN THE EARLY 1960S.

MR. DEVLIN, WHO RETIRED FROM THE AGENCY LAST YEAR, HAS
RETURNED TO ZAIRE AND HAS RE-ESTABLISHED HIS INTIMATE
PERSONAL CONTACT WITH PRESIDENT MOBUTU AND HAS
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REGULAR ACCESS TO HIM, THE SOURCES SAID.

DESPITE HIS RETIREMENT, THE SOURCES SAID, MR. DEVLIN'S REPORTS ON POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT IN ZAIRE ARE READ BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON.

STATE DEPARTMENT AND CIA SPOKESMEN DECLINED TO COMMENT ON THE REPORT.

THE FORD ADMINISTRATION IS REPORTED TO BE CHANNELLING THROUGH ZAIRE ABOUT 50 MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF ARMS AND SUPPLIES TO THE NATIONAL FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF ANGOLA (FNLA) AND THE NATIONAL UNION FOR THE TOTAL INDEPENDENCE OF ANGOLA (UNITA) -- TWO FACTIONS IN THE ANGOLAN CIVIL WAR OPPOSED TO THE SOVIET-BACKED POPULAR MOVEMENT FOR THE LIBERATION OF ANGOLA (MPLA).

THE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES SAID MOST OF THE U.S. COVERT FUNDS HAVE BEEN CHANNELLED THROUGH ZAIRE TO THE FNLA, HEADED BY PRESIDENT MOBUTU'S BROTHER-IN-LAW, MR. HOLDEN ROBERTO.

THEY ADDED THAT THE OBJECT OF THE AID TO THE FACTIONS IN ANGOLA WAS DESIGNED TO PLACE MR. ROBERTO IN POWER IN ANGOLA JUST AS THE CIA THROUGH ITS SUPPLY OF ARMS AND FUNDS BROUGHT PRESIDENT MOBUTU TO POWER.

THE SOURCES ALSO SAID THAT PRESIDENT FORD PERSONALLY AUTHORIZED THE SUPPORT FOR THE TWO FACTIONS IN ANGOLA LAST SPRING." KISSINGER

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